

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A printer, comprising:
 - 2 a platen;
 - 3 a dot-impact type print head;
 - 4 a first frame, which supports one of the platen and the print head;
 - 5 a second frame, which supports the other one of the platen and the
 - 6 print head, the second frame being supported by the first frame so as to be
 - 7 pivotable between a first position and a second position, the first position being
 - 8 a position where the print head opposes to the platen to define a printing
 - 9 position at which printing is performed on a printing medium through an ink
 - 10 ribbon which are placed between the print head and the platen, the second
 - 11 position being a position where the print head and the platen are not opposed
 - 12 to each other;
 - 13 a discharge port, from which the printing medium which has been
 - 14 passed through the printing position is discharged;
 - 15 a first member, provided on the first frame;
 - 16 a second member, provided on the second frame;
 - 17 a first path, for guiding the printing medium, the first path defined by
 - 18 the first member and the second member so as to extend through the printing
 - 19 position to the discharge port, in a case where the second frame is placed at
 - 20 the first position;
 - 21 a third member, provided on the first frame;
 - 22 a fourth member, provided on the first frame; and
 - 23 a second path, for guiding the ink ribbon to be placed at the printing

24 position, the second path defined by the third member and the fourth member
25 so as to branch from a downstream portion of the printing position in the first
26 path.

1 2. The printer as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an automatic
2 cutting mechanism, comprising:

3 a first blade, placed between the first path and the second path;

4 a second blade, provided on the second frame; and

5 a driving mechanism, operable to move the second blade relative to
6 the first blade to cut the printing medium placed between the first blade and the
7 second blade.

1 3. The printer as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a pair of rollers
2 which feed the printing medium held therebetween to the discharge port,

3 wherein one of the rollers is provided on the second frame, and the
4 other one of the rollers is placed between the first path and the second path.

1 4. The printer as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

2 a holder, provided in the first frame to hold a rolled printing medium
3 therein; and

4 a cover, provided on the second frame to open or close the holder.

1 5. The printer as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first path extends from
2 the holder such that the first path is also opened in a case where the second
3 frame is placed at the second position.

1 6. A printer, comprising:
2 a platen;
3 a print head, having a head face directed obliquely upward;
4 a first frame, which supports one of the platen and the print head; and
5 a second frame, which supports the other one of the platen and the
6 print head, the second frame being supported by the first frame so as to be
7 pivotal between a first position and a second position, the first position being
8 a position where the print head opposes to the platen in parallel, to define a
9 printing position at which printing is performed on a printing medium placed
10 between the print head and the platen, the second position being a position
11 where the print head and the platen are not opposed to each other,
12 wherein a pivot center of the second frame is placed lower than the
13 head face.

1 7. A printer, comprising:
2 a platen;
3 a print head;
4 a first frame, which supports one of the platen and the print head;
5 a second frame, which supports the other one of the platen and the
6 print head, the second frame being supported by the first frame so as to be
7 pivotal between a first position and a second position, the first position being
8 a position where the print head opposes to the platen to define a printing
9 position at which printing is performed on a printing medium placed between
10 the print head and the platen, the second position being a position where the

11 print head and the platen are not opposed to each other;
12 a discharge port, from which the printing medium which has been
13 passed through the printing position is discharged;
14 a first member, provided on the first frame;
15 a second member, provided on the second frame;
16 a first path, for guiding the printing medium therethrough, the first path
17 defined by the first member and the second member so as to extend through
18 the printing position to the discharge port, in a case where the second frame is
19 placed at the first position;
20 a third member, provided on the first frame;
21 a fourth member, provided on the first frame; and
22 a second path, for guiding the printing medium therethrough, the
23 second path defined by the third member and the fourth member so as to
24 branch from a downstream portion of the printing position in the first path.